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JUNTA'S MESSAGE MARKS THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF COUP

PY241722 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1305 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Military junta's message to the nation, read by the army secretary general, Gen Reynaldo Bignone--live]

[Excerpt] Today, 24 March, a new anniversary of the national reorganization process coincides with a very special historical moment. The armed forces, in the proclamation released to the nation 3 years ago, stated through the military junta that their intervention became unavoidable in view of the serious circumstances the country was facing. The supreme organization of the state, complying with one of its basic guidelines--the depersonalization of the process--is commemorating this anniversary with completely new members but is maintaining its absolute identification with those principles.

This process was regarded as unprecedented because, despite a war--the struggle against terrorism--the armed forces, as an institution, took over the government without any motivation than that of safeguarding the basic interests of the nation. This particular concept has been supported from the very beginning, fully aware of the need not merely to arrive at a solution but at a real solution, and when it was decisively stated that the objective was to implement a significant process, not one merely designed to restore order.

The process has gone through 3 hard, difficult years. Although major positive changes have taken place, much remains to be done at a time in which the overall outlook is troubled by impatience and anxiety. Both right and wrong actions were taken in this effort to get things done, in this intensive, unyielding activity aimed at achieving the set objectives, which were emphatically reaffirmed, because we are determined to comply with the commitment we have assumed both before the nation and before history.

Many are the obstacles still to be surmounted. With the prudence and responsibility characteristic of the leaders of this process, we shall follow the same guidelines, refurbishing all the mechanisms of the nation to lay down the basis that will enable us to attain the politically mature country we all desire. The search for proper solutions implies overall knowledge of the problems we most solve, knowledge attained through an objective, coherent and sensitive analysis of our current situation. This is the course that will bring the changes and amendments necessary for the progress the Argentine community as a whole demands. For this there will be no obstacles, either from persons or sectors.

The armed forces cannot solve all the country's problems by themselves. Freeing ourselves from factional interests and thinking only of the common good, we must all provide healthy and constructive ideas which would give rise to the solutions the country needs.

In due time the armed forces will improve their political proposal with the opinion of capable persons who--free from spurious interests or factional leanings--feel that they have the required civic courage to engage in the search for the final institutional solution for Argentina. Dialog and participation will be the means to this end.

It would not be fair to commemorate this date without conveying deserved gratitude to the first members of the military junta whose staunch patriotism, austerity and spirit of sacrifice allowed the launching of the nation's recovery.

Dissident Group's Communique

PY240137 Paris AFP in Spanish 1555 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Paris, 23 Mar (AFP)--The Collective for Boycott of the Argentine Dictatorship [colectivo de boicot a la dictadura Argentina] (COBA) has protested in a communique against the increase in economic relations between France and the Argentine dictatorship.

COBA released the communique on the third anniversary, 24 March, of the coup d'etat that placed Gen Jorge Rafael Videla in power.

COBA has announced a solidarity campaign favoring the victims of repression in Argentina and stressing the complicity of the French Government and enterprises. COBA also denounced the 5-year sentence given French citizen Viviane Jacob and requested information about French prisoners in Argentina.

CGT Exiles' Message

PY241933 Paris AFP in Spanish 1135 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Paris, 24 Mar (AFP)--The Argentine General Labor Confederation (CGT) in exile denounced here tonight the systematic process of destruction of the Argentine nation and the criminal economic program implemented by the armed forces of the country. In a telegram to President Jorge Videla on the third anniversary of a sad constitutional illegality, Casildo Herreras, CGT secretary general in exile, charges that the military junta has forced the country's working and business sectors into a 30-year regression.

The armed forces, Herreras said, cannot continue with their backs turned on our people and on the production forces and carrying on a process of deterioration which has no precedent in our history and which will inevitably result in harsher violence.

VIOLA CONCEDES INFLATION WORRIES 'LEGITIMATE'

PY241841 Paris AFP in Spanish 0432 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (AFP)--Asked if the economic team has unlimited support, Army Commander Gen Roberto Viola said: No member of the Argentine military government is protected by an immunity law. Viola, a member of the military junta that will commemorate the 24 March 1976 coup on Saturday, conceded that the worries expressed about the cost of living and wages are, in many instances, legitimate.

In a statement to the press in Mar del Plata, he also outlined some achievements made by the team headed by Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz. He added: A major effort undoubtedly still needs to be made to overcome the serious problem posed by inflation, to increase production activities and, consequently, to prompt a gradual, steady improvement of the standard of living. He also noted that the economic process is being closely followed, with attempts to balance the shares of effort to be shouldered by each sector so as to avoid the worsening of social tensions.

Commenting on the southern border conflict over the Beagle Channel with Chile, Viola stated that since the papal mediation Argentina has adopted all measures required for a prompt, effective military normalization in that area.

Businessmen's Support

PY231414 Paris AFP in Spanish 0351 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (AFP)--Argentine businessmen have fixed their position with respect to implementation of the official economic policy, which they support despite some detours from its original outline.

The Argentine Industrial Movement [MIA], which groups 160 chambers and federations exclusively from the industrial sector, proposed to salvage the philosophy and basic outlines of the plan by making some corrections. The businessmen, who were expected to issue a document criticizing the economic leadership, expressed in general terms their support for the Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz.

In a television interview Martinez de Hoz had stated that the tariff policy now being implemented is not against Argentine industry, but "should serve as an incentive to improve production."

The statement was accepted by MIA, which emphasized that in order to save the economic program presented in April 1976, concrete measures should be adopted to eliminate inflation by means of a really productive economy. The businessmen said industry is not responsible for inflation and reasserted that one cannot ignore the preponderant role of the government in the price increases with respect to other countries. MIA feels that only on the basis of a realistic monetary exchange can a medium-range tariff program be implemented, which the organization accepts, but within the context of a healthy economy, which has still not been achieved.

Finally, the businessmen criticized the virtual control of prices to which they are subjected since the government implemented its tariff program, and they demanded its repeal.

PASTOR SAYS ACCORD NEAR ON PARANA PROJECTS

PY231841 Paris AFP in Spanish 1407 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (AFP)--Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Pastor has stated that the reconciliation of the hydroelectric dams on the Parana River is only a short way off. In an interview released today by a local weekly, Pastor stated that this short distance will be covered in an atmosphere of harmony and mutual understanding with Brazil.

The projects to be reconciled are the Brazilian-Paraguayan Itaipu and the Argentine-Paraguayan Corpus, and Pastor indicated that the Brazilian Government is well disposed toward continuing negotiations, which had not been interrupted at any time.

He indicated that "we all want to broaden and step up the study and implementation of economic, commercial and technical issues which will lead to a strengthening of our bilateral relations." As to delays in the negotiations, the foreign minister indicated that the important thing is the agreement achieved with regard to objectives; "then if the time is shortened, so much the better."

He stated that the amendments in the design of the Paraguayan-Argentine Yacyreta dam, requested by Asuncion pose no obstacles as long as this does not imply changes in the timetable and cost of the project.

POLICE CHIEF URGES CRACKDOWN ON UNIONS, PARTIES

PY231904 Paris AFP in Spanish 1211 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (AFP)--Gen Juan Sasiain, chief of the Argentine federal police, stated here today that his force must enforce the current legal restrictions imposed on the activities of politicians and union leaders. In instructions to high-ranking police personnel, General Sasiain demanded a marked increase in police patrolling of Buenos Aires streets.

As for control and repression of political and union activities, prohibited in Argentina by the military government that took over on 24 March 1976, he indicated that the federal police must enforce the fulfillment of laws issued on the matter.

In connection with the prohibition, Ricardo Balbin, chairman of the Radical Civic Union, has been arrested twice and Christian Democratic, Peronist and other political leaders were tried.

Thus far the prohibition has been neither enforced nor obeyed too strictly, thus General Sasiain's instructions were interpreted here as a change in flexibility toward political leaders.

Renault Strike Dismissals

PY231522 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1445 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Bulletin--Cordoba, 23 Mar (NA)--According to reports today from reliable sources, the Argentine Renault company dismissed between 80 and 90 more employees, sending them telegrams yesterday. This number is added to the 52 dismissals the company announced yesterday as a result of the sitdown strike being held by the workers for 8 days now.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES FAVORING 'MIDDLE-CLASS' BLOC

PY231753 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0650 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (TELAM)--In reference to a report from Paris by AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, the Foreign Ministry stated that "it is not truthful and does not reflect the position maintained by Argentina during the fourth ministerial conference of the Group of 77, held in Arusha, Tanzania, in February of this year."

AFP has reported that in preparation for the fifth UN Conference on Trade and Development, the Argentine Government had decided "to propose the creation of a group of middle-class countries," which would be a fatal blow to the "already weakened Group of 77." The report added that this position was based on "recognition of its own interests as a country in an intermediate stage of development within the heterogenous Group of 77," in accordance with an official communique issued in Buenos Aires last Tuesday. The report indicated that the alleged Argentine proposal had had favorable responses from countries such as Mexico and Brazil.

In view of such distorted information, our Foreign Ministry explains that "on the contrary, it can be stated that the unity of the Latin American group--which was coordinated by the Argentine delegation during its turn as group leader--as well as the very necessary and useful solidarity of the Group of 77, were greatly strengthened during this meeting. This conclusion can be drawn merely by reading the final document unanimously approved by the participants."

The San Martin Palace communique states: "It is obvious that during negotiations in which 82 countries participated, not all of the initial points of view of the regional groups were in agreement. However, the document which was approved is the product of a solid understanding among all the participants, achieved through coordination of their policies. This will be the common position to be taken and defended by all developing nations during the upcoming meeting of the fifth UN Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in Manila in May."

PADILLA ASSAILS CHILE IN 'DAY OF SEA' SPEECH

PY231857 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1705 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 23 Mar (LATIN)--In today's nationwide celebration of the Day of the Sea, President David Padilla Arancibia criticized Chile's delays and lies [falacias] in opposing Bolivia's maritime claims. The president and officials of the military government he heads attended a civic march in which thousands of citizens paid honors to Eduardo Avaroa, the great Bolivian hero in the War of the Pacific, waged against Chile in 1879. Similar demonstrations were held in the main cities, mining districts and rural areas of the country as part of the official commemoration ceremonies of the 100th anniversary of the war in which Bolivia lost its coast on the Pacific.

In a message read to the nation over radio and television after the march, General Padilla praised the hero Avaroa--killed in combat at the town of Calama on 23 March 1879--and made harsh references to Chile's foreign policy since that war. He asserted that Chile is trying to deceive world opinion with the absurd story that Bolivia has never had direct access to the Pacific. He explained that innumerable items of evidence, geographical, historical and political, could destroy that statement at any international forum.

He referred to the Bolivian heroes of the war, who defended themselves against the Chilean invasion, fighting with their bare hands against immensely superior military forces who were rich in war materiel and frenzied by the rich booty within their reach. He explained that the Bolivian demand for an outlet to the sea, originating from the 1904 treaty by which this nation had to cede the territories occupied by Chile, has unconditional support from many countries. Even Chile several times has recognized the justice of our proposals, he added. He said diplomatic negotiations opened by Bolivia ran into Chilean intransigence. Unfortunately our sincerity collided with bad faith and met with delays and lies, he said. He justified the severance of diplomatic relations with Chile, decreed on 17 March 1978, and let it be known that we will not be able to resume a dialog, until the very harsh conditions that were intended to be imposed on us disappear and when the Chilean intransigence ends.

He emphasized the peaceful spirit of Bolivia, which has never declared war against any neighbor or attecked any foreign culture. He stressed, however, that love of peace should not be mistaken for fear or blind acceptance of injustice.

The president made a vehement appeal to all Bolivians to seek unity and to base their destiny on that unity. The task we have before us is hard and full of sacrifice. Let us not lose more time in painful invocations, useless wailings or attitudes that are simply chauvinistic and sterile, he concluded.

The Day of the Sea celebrations elicited a joint statement by the main Bolivian political parties, who confirmed their unconditional support of the cause. They remarked, however, that the search for a solution to the maritime problem can only be undertaken by a state of right, faithfully and lawfully representing the will of the people.

LABOR MINISTRY ISSUES DECREE INTERVENING UNIONS

PY231720 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1515 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Text] The regional labor delegate in Sao Paulo has received the following message from Brasilia, signed by Labor Minister Murilo Macedo:

The labor union commission, installed in the Regional Labor Court of Sao Paulo State for the purpose of investigating the participation in the strike, considered (?illegal by) the Regional Labor Court, staged by labor leaders of the metallurgical, mechanical and electrical appliances industries in Sao Caetano do Sul, Santo Andre, Mahua, Ribeirao Piris, Rio Grande da Serra, Sao Bernardo do Campo and Diadema, has drawn the inevitable conclusion, supported by public statements by those involved, that the leaders of those unions have actively participated in inciting disobedience of the decision (?of the court) and in leading public rallies and picket action, thus inducing the workers of their unions to continue the strike movement. Despite the seriousness of the events, the administrative authorities refrained from taking the appropriate forceful measures because of their intention to convince the labor union leaders to respect the juridicial order.

The defense of labor interests by recourse to strike [words indistinct] depends on the way that right is exercised. One of the principles of the state is respect for the decision of the judicial branch, tolerance and [word indistinct]. Disobedience of the courts signifies acceptance of a juridical disorder which is incompatible with social peace and the rights of the citizens. It is only for this reason that the labor law applicable to this case regards as a crime the action of stimulating third parties to disobey the decisions of the labor courts.

The decision of the Regional Labor Court, as has been explained to the whole nation was the peak of a long period of negotiations between the employers organizations of the Sao Paulo State steel industries and the representatives of the unions. At these negotiations the union leaders agreed to accept an increase much higher than the official rate, and the employers promised not to review the difference between the prices of their products and labor costs. Only three unions, which we mentioned before, refused to adhere to the agreement signed by these organizations. In this manner, Labor Minister Murilo Macedo resolves: A. Intervention of the unions of metallurgical, mechanical and electrical appliances industries of Santo Andre, Mahua, Ribeirao Piris and Rio Grande da Serra, designating (Alfredo Carge), current inspector of the Labor Ministry, as administrator-intervention of the unions.

B. The intervention of the union of metallurgical, mechanical and electrical appliances of Sao Caetano do Sul, designating (Escolho Isolato Grace), inspector of the Labor Ministry as administrator-interventor.

C. The intervention of the union of metallurgical, mechanical and electrical appliances of Sao Bernardo do Campo, designating (Guaraci Horta), administrative official of the Labor Ministry, as administrator-interventor.

Fear of Police Strike

PY231408 Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Text] In Rio de Janeiro the work stoppages and strikes are as widespread as in Sao Paulo. Now there are rumors about a police strike. (Floriano Peixoto) reports from Rio de Janeiro:

[(Peixoto)] In addition to the steelworkers, doctors and teachers, now the Rio de Janeiro police are ready to show the people, and especially government officials, the consequences of the revolutionary government's pressure to keep salaries down for more than 15 years, as suffered by the working class. The Rio de Janeiro police this afternoon will hold a special assembly to discuss the previous government's salary policy. It is believed that 90 percent of the police will decide on a strike, although this considered illegal by the government and the national security.

Regarding the strike of doctors, the doctors express great apprehension at the apparent indifference of government officials. The director of the (Salgado Filho) hospital has been dismissed for expressing solidarity with the movement. This measure surprised everyone because he was doing an excellent job as head of the hospital.

At the Society of State Teachers no solution has been reached so far to the teachers' problem, although Secretary (Manuel Franco) has said he found all demands just and the classification plan unjust. He also said the government is studying a counteroffer to be presented soon to the teachers. Meanwhile, the house remains untidy. This is (Floriano Peixoto) in Rio de Janeiro.

Arrests of Strikers

PY231844 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1800 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Text] As a consequence of the ABC strike and the intervention of the unions, military police and agents of DOPS [Department of Political and Social Order] have arrested more than 500 persons today in Sao Bernardo, Sao Caetano do Sul and Santo Andre. These persons were identified and released.

According to the DOPS, so far 24 persons are under arrest. They are directly linked to the strike movement and to the Socialist Convergence, an organization considered subversive by the police. DOPS Director [name indistinct] designated a team of two police officers and several agents for the three municipalities. All the arrested persons who are linked to the strike are being interrogated at the ABC police station by DOPS agents, and the suspects are being sent to the capital. According to DOPS, the climate is calm throughout the ABC. The union building is still being controlled by military police assault troops, and DOPS agents are providing protection for the interventors.

Sao Paulo Calm

PY241237 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1130 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] There is calm in the ABC region. At least the police have not reported any incidents. Union leaders of Sao Bernardo listened to the appeal made by Mayor (Tito Costa) and removed themselves from leadership of their unions. Of the 144 persons arrested, 26 already have been released and the rest were sent to DOPS to undergo thorough questioning about their behavior.

As a result of the intervention decreed in the ABC region, the number of intervened unions rose from five to eight--seven in Sao Paulo and one in Minas Gerais State.

Labor Minister Murilo Macedo said in Brasilia that he might reconsider the punishment of the dismissed ABC union leaders. He said that if those punished appealed, he would reconsider his decision. The minister also approved the release of a note by the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries in which the businessmen reiterate their decision to grant a 63-percent wage increase to the ABC metalworkers who return to work. Furthermore, the businessmen vowed not to punish the strikers.

Release of Detainees

PY241254 Paris AFP in Spanish 0346 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo, 23 Mar (AFP)--DOPS tonight reported the release of every person detained on the 11th day of the strike in the Sao Paulo industrial belt.

Approximately 3,000 persons gathered tonight in front of the state legislative assembly to protest the dismissal of the union leaders by the federal government. The meeting, which was orderly, was attended by union leaders, students and members of the MDB, the only legal opposition party.

Rights Group on 'Repression'

PY241856 Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] The repression of the metalworkers unions will not weaken the mobilization of the working class, according to the chairman of the Sao Paulo Justice and Peace Committee.

(Delio Dias) spoke this morning at the justice and human rights seminar held over the weekend at the (?Jesuit) college. He said he had been present in Sao Paulo during the repression against the unions on Friday morning which ended with the intervention of the unions in the Sao Paulo ABC industrial belt. In his opinion, political power is strong only when it has popular support, but not when it is imposed. He added that when power is weak, any mere pamphlet is enough to endanger the system. He recalled that the height of repression in Brazil occurred in 1975, but that there is now repression of ideas and more refined tortures, because people often simply disappear and their deaths are called "work accidents."

GOIAS STATE GOVERNOR DISCOVERS OFFICE BUGGED

PY231508 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Mar 79 p 1 PY

[Text] An electronic listening device manufactured in the Netherlands was found in one of the drawers of Goias Governor Ary Valdao's desk as a result of an investigation ordered when he began to suspect that his telephones were bugged because his talks with his aides were being disclosed to the public.

The small recorder-transmitter was linked to a "central somewhere in Goiania." A photoelectric cell operated a recorder hidden in a room close to the governor's office. In reporting the case, Goias National Renewal Alliance Deputy Adhemar Santillo again demanded the elimination of the National Intelligence Service.

KIDNAPED FORMER AMBASSADOR TO VATICAN FOUND SLAIN

PY241342 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1315 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--The body of Ambassador Jose Jobim was found this morning on Estrada da Barra in front of the Serra Mar Hotel here by a patrol of the 18th Military Police Battalion.

The ambassador was kidnaped last Thursday between his home and Guanabara Palace, where he was to meet Governor Chagas Freitas. There is now hectic activity in the area. The body of Ambassador Jobin shows signs of strangulation with a nylon cord. The entire state police is being mobilized to search the area where the body was found.

So far there is no definite report on the motive for the kidnaping and murder of ambassador Jobim. The federal police are also virtually mobilized and a report may be released any moment on the crime.

U.S. SECURITY OFFICERS IN INCIDENT AT ITAMARATY

PY240007 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Mar 79 p4 PY

[Text] Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro for more than an hour yesterday enjoyed the comfort of being guarded by FBI security agents. The many agents charged with the security of Vice President Walter Mondale practically "took over" Itamaraty minutes before the U.S. vice president arrived, and three of them posted themselves at the door of the minister's office, selecting who could go in and keeping an eye on the journalists.

The two Brazilian security agents who usually serve the foreign minister were displaced and sent to the mezzanine, 20 meters from the minister's office door. The U.S. security agents decided when to open the door for the traditional picturetaking and nervously riveted their eyes on the Brazilian journalists inside the office.

Before the arrival of Vice President Mondale, the U.S. security agents were edgy, demanding that the Brazilian journalists be cordoned off to limit their movements to the mezzanine. The Brazilian diplomats immediately called in ushers and asked them to set up a "pen."

The journalists reacted immediately. Photographers placed their cameras on the floor and journalists threatened not to write anything on Mondale's visit to Itamaraty if the measure continued. In brief negotiations, Brazilian diplomats convinced the FBI agents to remove the rope. This only made agents more nervous, and they exerted even more efforts in watching the Brazilian journalists when the U.S. vice president walked in.

BRIEFS

NEW ELETROBRAS PRESIDENT--Mauricio Schulmann will be sworn in tomorrow as the new president of the Brazilian Power Companies, Inc. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Mar 79 PY]

COFFEE INSTITUTE PRESIDENT--In a ceremony held today in Rio de Janeiro, Otavio Rainho Silva Neves was sworn in as new president of the Brazilian Coffee Institute. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Mar 79 PY]

PINOCHET SAYS COUNTRY HAS REJECTED POLITICIANS

PY231423 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpts] Puerto Montt citizens gave an enthusiastic welcome to President Augusto Pinochet. The president spoke to the crowd and reasserted his faith in Chile and its future: [Relay from Puerto Montt] President Augusto Pinochet reasserted that Chileans are now thinking about the future of our fatherland and not about political activity, elections or any other action proper by those petty politicians who are the only ones responsible for all the misery we have experienced. The president made this statement a few minutes after his arrival in Puerto Montt. Pinochet arrived from Temuco along with his wife and his ministers.

The entire Puerto Montt community gave the president a most enthusiastic welcome, and the president even addressed the community from the terrace of the Perez Rosales Hotel. In his address, Pinochet reasserted that Chile is a young country because two-thirds of our population is young people. He noted: We must plan for this youth, and build for their future, so they may have a horizon; but to do this we must build in unpopulated areas. This is what we will now do in this area. We have just opened a new road and we will open another one with the aim of settling the Chiloe and Aysen regions.

He warned: It is the future of Chile that is at stake in this region. It is a future that must be planned, to enable the youths to have a hopeful future and not those problems the majority of our population is facing today.

Pinochet noted: Today Chileans are thinking about the future of our fatherland and not about political activity, elections or any of the other things imposed on us by petty politicians, who are the only ones responsible for all the misery we have experienced. But what is most regrettable is that these gentlemen seem to have forgotten that in 1972 and 1973 they came pleading to our barracks doors, to ask us to save them from disaster, because today they are sitting at the same table with communists and members of other political parties.

Gentlemen, we are now living in a reconstruction period. We are now thinking about the future, but above all we are achieving real things and not just speaking of promises and hopes. We are achieving realities in answer to these hopes.

ENVOY TO U.S. DOUBTS CARTER WILL APPLY PRESSURE

PY241848 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Chile's ambassador to Washington has stated that President Carter will not serve as a channel for parliamentary pressures. Ambassador Jose Miguel Barros indicated that he was returning to his post fully optimistic that bilateral relations will improve. He had participated for a week in a meeting of Chilean ambassadors to Latin American countries held at the Foreign Ministry.

[Begin Barros recording] [Passage indistinct] because it has been placed in the hands of justice and I have never doubted that the Chilean courts will deal with the matter independently [words indistinct]. Once this problem is solved, and looking at the future on a long-term basis, I have strong hopes that things will improve, even though, as you well know [words indistinct] the relations between Chile and the United States have been experiencing ups and downs for some time. [end recording]

[Passage indistinct] Barros also rejected the rumor that the United States will withdraw its ambassador in Chile if the extraditions it had requested are not approved. According to news reports, the Washington government would leave only a charge d'affaires in Chile. [begin recording] [words indistinct] as to your question, I have met no one responsible in the United States, in any circle at all, even in those less friendly toward the Chilean Government, who suggests the withdrawal of the ambassador for this reason. [end recording]

The ambassador indicated that by requesting the extraditions, the U.S. Government had in a way acknowledged the validity of the court procedures and in some way extended its approval [words indistinct].

Barros said he doubted the reports and viewed them as one of many rumors being circulated by those who are not satisfied with an improvement in Chilean-U.S. relations.

[Begin recording] As to the requests of the U.S. representatives, there is no doubt that they have the right to make requests, but I doubt that the White House and the Department of State will agree to channel these petitions; thus I must say that I did not and do not believe that President Carter, who is an honorable man, a man who respects the law, will agree to channel pressures of this kind. [end recording]

Ambassador Barros will leave tonight for Washington to resume his duties. In the meantime it is expected that U.S. Ambassador George Walter Landau will return to Santiago by the end of next week.

COLOMBIAN, FRENCH LAWMAKERS VISITING SANTIAGO

PY241452 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpts] Two foreign legislators, one Colombian and one French,are currently in the country assessing the nation's situation. The two were received separately by Acting Foreign Minister Gen Enrique Valdez.

Colombian Senator Alvaro Gomez Hurtado came to Chile after attending the presidential inauguration in Brazil. He indicated that he was greatly surprised by the progress attained by the country in 5 and 1/2 years of reconstruction. He also said he hoped that this significant progress would continue. Gomez Hurtado also said he has held contacts with government officials, representatives of private sectors and persons in national politics. The Colombian senator discussed the criticisms voiced in his country's congress against the Chilean Government. He explained that in his country there are some who follow international guidelines, seeking propaganda (?effects). With regard to human rights, Gomez Hurtado said Chile has been the victim of propaganda.

The French parliamentarian is (Eduard Frederic Dupont), who said he is a great friend of Chile and wants to know how the Chileans are doing after his long absence. He said this is his second trip to Chile, where he had come some 5 years ago and had a chance to visit Santiago, talk to people and see how things were. Now he sees that there have been many changes and is taking away the best impression of Chile. (Frederic Dupont) indicated he was especially interested in the new institutionality, and plans to meet with Enrique Ortuzar, chairman of the constitutional reform committee.

MINISTER'S 'OPTIMISTIC' VIEW ON OIL QUESTIONED

PA231544 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[German Duque report]

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Alberto Vasquez Restrepo said a few hours ago that not everything in the country's oil picture is somber. The minister used this as an introduction to his announcement of the discovery of a new productive gas deposit on the Atlantic coast.

Radio stations broadcasting from San Carlos Palace gave full coverage to this announcement. It resounded over television newscasts and newspapers' frontpage headlines announced: An important gas deposit has been discovered at Molinero 1 well.

That was as far as the mines minister's statements went. What he failed to include in his optimistic statements was the true potential of the Molinero 1 well, located close to Sabana Larga, as well as the failures that also occurred in the past few days at two wells being explored by foreign companies which, in association with ECOPETROL, lost $17 million, or 800 million pesos, in the venture.

Although these events occurred more or less simultaneously, the mines minister commented only on the discovery of gas in the Molinero 1 well and forgot to report the failures at the Uraba and (Morosquillo) wells, which were being worked by the (City Service) and Esso companies.

Up to a few days ago, 10 wells were under exploration in the country. Two of them failed, while another apparently turned out to be productive--the Molinero 1. The mines minister took advantage of the latter to paint a different picture of the nation's oil picture. Concerning the Molinero 1 oil well, which was played up so much in the last few hours, it is known that its potential is low. It has a possible output of some 7 million cubic meters per day, as compared, for example, with wells in La Guajira, which produce as much as 400 million cubic meters of gas.

The mines minister, therefore, gave the country one good piece of news while hiding the two bad events. Why did he do this, since the country's critical oil picture is more negative than positive?

ARMY REVEALS ARRESTS IN DRIVE AGAINST M-19

PA241624 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] Medellin--The 4th Brigade, headquartered in this city, has for the first time acknowledged the arrest of 34 persons on suspicion of being connected with the M-19 movement. It was only 24 hours after the initial raids and arrests that the military institution issued a statement on this matter and announced that--in addition to the 34 arrests--it had seized arms, ammunition, vehicles, propaganda material and documents considered to be extremely important for military intelligence purposes.

However, the 4th Brigade did not disclose the names of those arrested. It just said that the operations were carried out jointly by the army, police and the Administrative Department of Security [DAS].

The brigade command will periodically issue bulletins as required to let the public know the true facts that may result from the operations being conducted by the authorities to establish peace in the jurisdiction of this operational unit.

Meanwhile, the persons arrested for suspected links with the M-19 in the last few hours are being held incommunicado. This morning, several friends of the prominent doctor Vidal Baltazar went to the 4th Brigade installations in an attempt to communicate with him, but the brigade roundly rejected their request. In addition, relatives and friends of some of the prisoners who went to inquire about their whereabouts this morning had the doors virtually slammed in their faces and received no information whatsoever.

A senior 4th Brigade officer told Super Noticias that all persons arrested by the army and secret services on suspicion of belonging to the M-19 urban movement will remain incommunicado for 10 days. He stressed that the military institution will conduct investigations for 10 days and that if those arrested are found to be indictable they will be turned over to a judge who will take charge of the case. Otherwise, they will be released at the end of 10 days.

Additional Arrests

PA241625 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Additional arrests were made this morning by military forces as part of the operation against the members of the clandestine M-19 organization. The army arrested Alvaro Velasquez, secretary general of the Colombian Communist Party, labor leaders Pedro Osorio of FENALTRASE [National Federation of Workers at the Service of the State], Pedro Gomez of the DANE [National Administrative Department of Statistics], Jose Asuncion Silva, Vicente Guataquira and his wife.

Meanwhile, it was learned at noon that many peasants were arrested during a raid on the regional agrarian office in Viota, which apparently harbored members of the seditious organization.

ATTORNEY GENERAL REFUTES TORTURE CHARGES AGAINST MILITARY

PA230432 Paris AFP in Spanish 0151 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 22 Mar (AFP)--Attorney General Guillermo Gonzalez denied here today that alleged torture had been inflicted on persons arrested on charges of subversive actions. These charges prompted serious national and international criticism.

The attorney general sent a message to President Julio Cesar Turbay informing him of the results of the investigation which the president requested on 24 October 1978. The investigation in question was carried out by the Attorney General's Office in the wake of charges of alleged ill treatment of a group of university students arrested last year on charges of links with extremist movements.

The investigation refuted the charges made by the prisoners. One of them, Jose Ardila, affirmed that had been burned on one leg, but it was an injury he had suffered a month before he was arrested in an accident at home.

The charge made by Yaneth de Escobar was also refuted. She claimed that she had had a miscarriage as a result of violent torture inflicted on her body, but she was pretending she was pregnant.

The report added that a judge, especially appointed for the investigation, had said that there was no evidence to order a court-martial of two captains accused of the alleged torture. The 30-page report delivered to the president states that the two officers will be given their complete freedom.

Defense Minister's Denial

PA231853 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Humberto Rico report]

[Text] Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva reiterated last night at the end of a meeting between President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and the members of the Cabinet, that the armed forces have not employed, are not employing and will not employ torture in carrying out the duties assigned to them.

The minister made the statement while commenting on aspects of the announcement made by the attorney general of the republic absolving the members of the military forces who had been charged with mistreating students of the National University who were arrested in the course of investigations into matters involving public order.

Commenting on the attorney general's statement, Minister Camacho Leyva said the following:

[Begin Camacho Leyva recording] It was my opinion, which I perhaps have not expressed since the last time I spoke with newsmen in Barranquilla, that we would have to wait until the competent judicial official dictated or reached the corresponding conclusion regarding the investigation. The attorney general has informed the country that the competent authorities have now passed judgment on the file that had been prepared as a result of a presidential request.

The ruling that has just been dictated by the competent authorities, as I have said, indicates that there is no justification, no reason for convoking a court-martial against any of those implicated in the case.

The end of the first phase of the process, for which the public has been waiting, was reached in this manner. It has undoubtedly ended favorably for the individuals who were implicated.

[Question] Mr Minister, in the past few days the armed forces carried out a series of actions in which a number of persons were arrested on suspicion of subversion. Could you comment?

[Answer] It is true. The actions of the military forces are continuing throughout the country and we have obtained good results from those operations, not only against those who have been disrupting public order but also in controlling the Mafia and common criminals.

I think this is a good time for us to tell the country that we will continue to act until we can ensure the peace and security that the citizens need in order to devote themselves to constructive efforts.

[Question] Mr Minister, did this uncertainty and the charges of torture influence subsequent actions by the armed forces against crime? In other words, was the attitude of the armed forces changed in any way?

[Answer] No. We have continued to work, as I said in the beginning. The thing is, there has not been any torture; we have simply been accused of it. Therefore, there has been no change in our procedures simply because, as I have said, there was no torture before, during or afterward.

[Question] Mr Minister, do you believe that if there had been no torture the armed forces would have been able to dismantle the M-19?

[Answer] There has been no torture and we were able to begin to fight the M-19 in a more serious manner without torture. [end recording]

The Cabinet deliberated in San Carlos Palace last night until shortly before 2200, when the session ended. However, at the end of the meeting the Cabinet indicated that no special measures had been taken in the course of the deliberations and that the Council of Ministers had discussed routine matters.

RIOTERS, POLICE CLASH IN CALI CONFRONTATION

PA231952 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Hernando Ramon Lugo report from Cali]

[Text] One student shot, two policemen with bruises, a van belonging to the (Ley) company set on fire and 30 rioters arrested was the recorded toll of the violent stonings on the campus of the University of El Valle when elements who are completely unattached to the local university had an open confrontation with police forces on hand.

A (Ley) van packed with material to be shipped to Ipiales was set on fire by two Molotov cocktails hurled by the rioters. The army, using military police and lancer units of the 3d Brigade, took control of the grounds of the University of El Valle. As of early this morning, the troops had arrested at least 30 camouflaged extremists who had been hiding in the bushes around the university.

The persons arrested during the military operation were sent to the 5th Police Precinct, where they will be jailed today as prescribed by the national security statute.

In the Calima District, police forces also (?halted) stonings by high school students who were protesting the increase in fares for large and small buses.

At this time, the army is in control of the city, particularly in the areas surrounding the sites of skirmishes that occurred the previous day. Isidro Ordonez, a student at the University of El Valle, was shot during the disturbances and at this time is in the emergency room of the Evaristo Garcia Hospital after undergoing surgery for a wound in the neck.

BOGOTA STUDENTS PROTEST INCREASED BUS FARES

PA231715 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Five vehicles were stoned and one was set on fire in isolated disturbances staged by rioting students in Bogota last night particularly in Ciudad de Kennedy.

Official sources revealed that high school students began to stone large and small public buses in protest against the government-decreed increase in transporation fares.

Some 50 rioters were arrested. The authorities will begin to review their situation today.

GOVERNORS OBJECT TO LEGALIZATION OF MARIHUANA

PA231713 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Governor Hernando Suarez Cleves of Huila, Governor Alfonso de la Espriella Espinosa of Cordoba and the governor of Sucre expressed disagreement with Mayor Vives Henriquez of Santa Marta who has urged the government to legalize the use of marihuana, as proposed by the National Association of Financial Institutions.

Governor Suarez, who arrived in Bogota last night to talk with the minister of government, said that his department is not bothered by the problem of marihuana trafficking and cultivation. He added that the legalization of the product in Colombia would have serious international repercussions.

For his part, De la Espriella Espinosa said simply: I do not agree with that proposal on the basis of simple, logical reasoning.

Governor of Sucre Miguel Navas (Meitel) said that the measure is not wise because it is known that marihuana has negative effects on health. He added that such a measure would adversely affect relations with the United States, a country that is also committed to the war against the illegal trafficking of marihuana and cocaine.

STRONG EARTHQUAKE ROCKS CARIBBEAN COAST

PA250235 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0030 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 23 Mar (EFE)--The Los Andes Geophysical Institute has reported that a quake registering 6 on the international scale was felt along a vast area of Colombia's Caribbean coast on Friday. Rafael Governa, deputy director of the institute, located the epicenter of the quake approximately 100 km off the coast. Despite its intensity, the quake caused no material damage.

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC RESEARCH DIRECTOR--Bogota--Economist Pedro Munoz Ferreria has been appointed new Economic Research Department director, replacing Hernan Medina Torres, who will head the Advisory and Financial Control Division of the IPL. For 9 years Munoz Ferreira was linked to the National Administrative Department of Statistics and has held other high government posts. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA]

MONEY IN CIRCULATION--Bogota--Thus far this year the government has withdrawn 5 billion pesos from circulation. Cash in circulation now amounts to 129 billion pesos. The General Banking Office said that some of the main reasons for the reduction were a reduction in loans granted by the Banco de la Republica to other banks, the withdrawal of bills by the central bank and deposits to current accounts of the banking system. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA]

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE ARRIVES IN CARACAS

PA232043 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale began a short visit to Caracas today. During his stay he will meet twice with President Luis Herrera Campins. Human rights and oil matters will be the main topics on the agenda. The U.S. vice president came to Caracas with Assistant Secretary of State Viron Vaky and National Security Council member Robert Pastor.

On arriving in Caracas, Mondale placed a floral wreath before the tomb of the father of our country and then went on to Miraflores, where he is currently meeting with President Herrera Campins.

Later, the U.S. vice president will visit the National Congress. According to his agenda, Mondale and President Herrera will hold a 4-hour meeting in the afternoon. In the evening, he will attend a reception at the U.S. Embassy and a dinner in La Casona.

Foreign Minister's Statement

PA232044 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Ernesto Vega report]

[Text] The first meeting between President Dr Luis Herrera Campins and U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale has just concluded. We now interview Venezuelan Foreign Minister Dr Alberto Zambrano Velasquez, who will inform us about some of the most important topics that will be discussed by the Venezuelan chief of state and the U.S. vice president:

[Begin Zambrano recording] We are serving as hosts to Vice President Mondale, who is paying a goodwill visit to us. For constitutional reasons, he was unable to attend President Herrera's inauguration, and he is now visiting us after first having stopped in Brazil.

This afternoon there will be a working meeting at which the presidents [as heard] and their teams will examine certain topics. They will make statements to the press in due time.

[Question] There has been talk that, since the United States will run out of oil before the year's end, this might be one of the fundamental topics in the meeting with President Herrera; that is, guaranteeing Venezuela's oil supply to the United States.

[Answer] Look, we must think along different lines. Oil is certainly a trade instrument, but Venezuela cannot view its oil only as a means of obtaining currency. On the contrary, it must view it as a path to achieving its development. This idea of using oil as a means of achieving our true development can shape Venezuela's international foreign relations, particularly with the United States, to the extent that we will be able to obtain the cooperation that our country needs in order to achieve it.

[Question] Mr foreign minister, will the topic of human rights be discussed?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] which Venezuela fully shares. That is a topic that provides what I would dare call an ethical-political flavor to our relations and which, of course, should be taken into consideration by President Herrera and Vice President Mondale.

[Question] What is the real situation regarding the Nicaraguan exiles in our embassy in that country?

[Answer] That remains exactly as we found it. There has been no modification regarding that situation.

[Question] Are any Nicaraguans expected to arrive?

[Answer] Not at present. All that remains exactly as we found it.

[Question] Will the Nicaraguan problem be another of the topics discussed with the U.S. vice president?

[Answer] I am not sure, but it is probable since that is a matter of international interest. [end recording]

Legislators' Acclamation

PA252126 Caracas VENPRES Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1512 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 22 Mar (VENPRES)--The visit of U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale to Venezuela is highly positive now that the presidential term of Luis Herrera Campins has started, because the talks between the statesmen will strengthen friendly bonds between the two countries. At the same time, these talks could lead to conclusions on international oil policy.

The above statement is a synthesis of the opinion voiced by noted legislators of the political groups represented in the National Congress commenting on the presence of the high ranking U.S. official in Venezuela. The following are some of their statements:

Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, of COPEI [Social Christian Party], former president of the Chamber of Deputies in the Perez administration, said the importance of Mondale's visit lies in our government's intention to maintain the best and closest relations with the United States of America.

"We greet him as something positive for the country, positive for relations with the United States, and we only hope that this climate of dialog and understanding prevails," Alvarez Paz said.

Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, of AD [Democratic action], chief of the Democratic Action parliamentary bloc, said that the presence of the high ranking U.S. representative in our country is of great importance because it will encourage a rapprochement between our two peoples and give us the opportunity to discuss some problems concerning our mutual relations.

Hernandez Grisanti, an AD oil policy expert, said that in view of the importance of oil in U.S.-Venezuelan relations, problems in that area could be discussed. "However," he added, "Venezuela already has a fixed oil policy; therefore, I believe the dialog between Vice President Mondale and President Herrera Campins will yield no special results in that respect."

Deputy Elroy Torres, leader of the Movement for Socialism (MAS) and recently elected second vice president of the Chamber of Deputies, believes Mondale's visit must serve to bolster the historic relations between the two countries. At the same time, he feels it will be a good opportunity to tell the United States of Venezuela's need for its oil price increase to be recognized.

Deputy Siuberto Martinez, leader of the People's Electoral Movement (MEP) parliamentary bloc, declared that the U.S. vice president's visit is important to the degree that it may produce agreements favoring several aspects of the Venezuelan economy closely related to U.S. foreign policy.

The MEP deputy said that in the case of Venezuelan oil policy it is necessary to study some aspects of the supposedly nationalized oil industry because, in his opinion, the behavior of some U.S. firms in the country is not in harmony with nationalization principles.

Ramon Tenorio Sifontes, leader of the Democratic Republican Union (URD), leader of his party's parliamentary bloc, believes that the visit of U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale is important because his position as a progressive politican should contribute to maintaining relations between both countries, especially on oil matters, on a high level.

Tenorio Sifontes also felt that the occasion could allow the Venezuelan Government to again recommend that the U.S. Government annul the anti-OPEC law, which is discriminatory and negative to Venezuela.

Herrera Campins' Statement

PA242211 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1621 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 24 Mar (EFE)--The U.S. vice president expressed here today, Saturday, his country's gratitude for the "excellent sense of responsibility" shown by Venezuela when it increased its petroleum production following the Iranian crisis.

Meanwhile, President Herrera Campins emphasized that if Venezuelan reserves surpass predicted estimates, then, acting within the policy of conserving this important energy resource, Venezuela could make an additional effort and increase exports. The Venezuelan president also said that the lack of petroleum exploration limits national production. The president was implicitly referring to the policy of former President Carlos Andres Perez, which tended to restrict exploitation and leave the largest possible petroleum reserve for the future.

Herrera Campins also said that in his meetings with Mondale he had found a positive reply to the proposals that former Foreign Minister Aristides Calvani had taken to the United States while heading a mission from his political party. "We are going to advance a great deal in the area of technological cooperation with the United States," he said. "We are going to implement this cooperation," he emphasized.

Herrera also said that "Venezuela is aware of its role as a reliable supplier to the United States and Canada" and confirmed his commitment to visit North America. He did not specify when he would make the visit in response to an invitation from Walter Mondale issued on behalf of President Carter.

Mondale's Departure

PA241655 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1556 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 24 Mar (EFE)--Today at 1500 GMT, U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale returned to Washington after making a 24-hour visit to Venezuela. He was seen off at the Simon Bolivar International Airport by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano and a group of individuals representing the country's various institutions.

INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS BLAMED FOR OIL PRICE SPIRAL

PA231603 Caracas VENPRES Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0013 GMT 22 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 20 Mar (VENPRES)--President Luis Herrera Campins has told Italian television (RAI) that the increase in oil prices is a response to the inflation originating in the industrialized countries.

The report was released at Miraflores Palace this morning by RAI newsman Renzo Delprete, audio specialist Michele Dilio and cameraman Franco Catuche. They added that President Herrera had told them that the oil price spiral was not started by the oil-producing countries but by the industrialized countries and the price hike as a reaction to this situation. What the oil-producing countries have done is to preserve their purchasing power.

When questioned about the collective news conferences--the first one was held at Miraflores yesterday and was attended by 54 persons--Hererra said that he expects to always feel close to the people through them and that power must be close to the people.

ZAMBRANO DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH URUGUAY, COLOMBIA

PA240052 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The Venezuelan Government will continue talking with Colombia in search of a solution to the border problem. This statement was made by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Dr Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco.

Our reporter asked the minister about the possibility of reestablishing diplomatic relations with Uruguay. The foreign minister answered: President Herrera has stated that he wants to reestablish relations with sister nations. In the specific case of Uruguay, however, the time has not come yet to discuss such an action.

CARACAS SHAKEN BY EARTHQUAKE 23 MARCH

PA250232 Paris AFP in Spanish 2123 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 23 Mar (AFP)--An earthquake registering 5.5 on the Richter scale was felt in Caracas this afternoon, causing alarm among the people in some high rise buildings but without causing any damage. The Cajigal Observatory in Caracas confirmed the quake and located its epicenter in the Caribbean approximately 500 to 700 km north of Venezuela.

COSTA RICA

CARAZO PLEASED WITH GOVERNMENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PA242330 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1745 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo says that he has no intention of abandoning the civil law system of the country. The following is an interview that he granted to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr President, can the conflict with Nicaragua make Costa Rica change its tradition of having no army or interest in military affairs?

[Answer] It cannot happen. We in Costa Rica cannot lose our tradition of civil law. The Nicaraguan regime has created a series of problems, but we have been able to solve them with the help of the OAS and friendly nations and with the unwavering determination of the Costa Rican people, who know that they have the right to live in peace and without an army.

[Question] Central America has already experienced a war, the soccer war. Is there no danger of war between Costa Rica and Nicaragua?

[Answer] No, because we do not play soccer with Nicaragua.

[Question] Have there been any more incidents on the border?

[Answer] We have not had serious problems on the border. We have established a cordon with our Civil Guard which, as the name states, is not a military corps but a group entrusted with protecting our cities and towns--which guarantees that there will be no conflicts on our border and protects the residents of the border areas, especially the peasants, since there are no large population centers in the area.

[Question] Speaking about Costa Rica, what has your administration accomplished so far?

[Answer] I believe we are doing very well. We have managed to survive these difficult months of the relations with Nicaragua and maintain a growing economic situation, in spite of the oil price increases. Naturally, now we are concerned with the new increases being announced, but the country has been progressing. We have established good relations with the coffee-producing countries, from Brazil to Mexico, and the government's internal organization is efficient. We have taken hold of the reins and are conducting many projects that the Costa Ricans needed. In addition, we have also been establishing positive formulas to solve problems on the basis of new financial systems that Costa Rica lacked and are now being implemented. In sum, I feel very pleased at the end of 10 months of having initiated my administration and I am certain that we have established the bases for a fruitful administration and great accomplishments.

[Question] Thank you, Mr President. [end recording]

SECURITY MINISTER DENIES PLANS TO PREPARE ARMY

PA231954 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Costa Rican Security Minister Juan Echeverria Brealey has denied rumors that the Costa Rican Government is preparing an army. When asked about the recent purchases of weapons for Operation Checkmate to eradicate the Sandinists in the area, Minister Echeverria said that the government borrowed these weapons and, therefore, the weapons will not remain permanently in our country.

Recently, Echeverria had told the National Assembly deputies that these weapons would also be used to defend the sovereignty of the country, which is constantly being violated by the Somozist guards.

CARAZO STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

PA242023 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Statement by President Rodrigo Carazo during initiation of midget coconut plantation program in Parismina; 23 March--recorded]

[Text] Basically, our country is dedicated to agriculture. As a result, we have a series of institutions that have outgrown agriculture. It is our responsibility to see that agriculture does not fall behind other activities in our country and is a source of improvement for our population.

One of agriculture's characteristics is that it is practiced even in the most remote corners of the country, where men with barely the most elemental resources go into the jungle to seek a livelihood. Let us not forget that the peasant who goes into the jungle to open new horizons is part of this country and should not be neglected.

From the beginning, this administration has tried to give special attention to agriculture as it has done to other sectors. We are doing it by using systems similar to other activities, providing technical assistance, fiscal subsidies, bank loans and, mainly, government supervision.

We cannot put into a window display on Central Avenue what has been achieved in developing banana plantations. But in those window displays you have what dollars can buy with the development of banana plantations. A woman in San Jose does not show in the stockings she wears the money produced by exporting coconuts, but those dollars can be used to purchase dresses and many articles used by the citizens in the city.

We are currently importing a large number of items we eat. We are importing beans, sorghum and corn. It is important that we soon have an agriculture that provides us with the things we need. For this to be possible, the state's support is necessary to put agriculture in the frontline with other activities.

EL SALVADOR

FARN SAYS BRITISH BANK EXECUTIVES STILL ALIVE

PA240202 Paris AFP in Spanish 0144 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Mar (AFP)--British bank executives Ian Massie and Michael Chaterton, kidnaped by the Armed Forces of National Resistance [FARN], are alive, according to a FARN communique issued here today refuting a report given yesterday.

The communique, which arrived at the offices of all communications media, carrying No 11, proposed new direct negotiations for the release of the British executives with the London bank they work for.

A telephone called made yesterday had announced that the two British executives had been killed.

The FARN also demanded that the British Government stay out of the negotiations and accused it of "negligence in the defense of its subjects" and of being "imperialist."

Japanese businessman Takakazu Suzuki was not mentioned in the communique. He is also being held by the FARN and his release has not been announced.

The evening (opposition) paper LA CRONICA today affirmed on its front page that the Japanese was already free and that his release would be announced after he had left the country.

NICARAGUA

SANDINISTS KILL OFFICER; AIR FORCE BOMBS TOWN

PA251413 Paris AFP in Spanish 0322 GMT 25 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 24 Mar (AFP)--Violence flared in Nicaragua again today when the National Guard bombed the outskirts of a town north of Managua and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] killed an air force captain here.

Several battles occurred late Saturday night between the National Guard and FSLN guerrillas in southern and northern Managua. A Nicaraguan Air Force plane dropped two heavy bombs near Tipitapa, 22 km north of Managua, sowing terror among the town's 12,000 inhabitants. One of the bombs fell barely 200 meters away from a hut in which 14 persons live, it was learned here.

Meanwhile, the FSLN's Prolonged People's War (GPP) Faction claimed credit in a clandestine communique for the killing of Air Force Capt Abel Toledo in this city today. According to the GPP communique, a commando of four young men killed the officer by machinegunning him in his residence at Bosque de Altamira, a residential district in southern Managua, because he participated in the bombing of Esteli's civilian population in September.

At nightfall, two police precincts, one in southern Managua and the other in northern Managua, were attacked by the Sandinists. The ensuing battle lasted some 30 minutes, but so far it is not known if there were any casualties on either side.

Other attacks occurred at various points in the capital. Sporadic shooting and blasts were heard but the authorities have not issued any communique in this regard. In addition, elements believed to be Sandinists held up a savings and loan institution in Leon, 90 km west of Managua on the same date and took almost $5,000 (35,000 cordobas). A National Guard patrol reached the scene a few minutes later but could not find the attackers.

According to unofficial reports received here tonight, a heavy movement of troops has been observed in Managua's northern district but the reason for it is unknown.

Further Reportage

PA251749 Paris AFP in Spanish 1529 GMT 25 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Mar (AFP)--Violent clashes last Saturday night between Sandinists and regular troops in eastern Managua left a toll of at least 13 dead (12 civilians and one soldier), it was learned here today.

The action started when a guerrilla group attacked and occupied a police station in the Bello Horizonte sector, in southeastern Managua. After occupying the station, the Sandinists fled, taking all the arms on the premises with them.

Other armed civilian groups were reported to have clashed with troops in other parts of the city.

There was no report on whether all the civilians who were killed were members of the guerrillas or were merely trapped in the crossfire between the soldiers and the rebels.

The fighting was particularly intense in the Bello Horizonte sector when military reinforcements arrived to assist the police station that was under attack by the rebels.

The Sandinists were reportedly using large arms in the clash with the army and had no trouble in retreating, according to eyewitnesses.

NIAPSA KIDNAPERS SURRENDER PEACEFULLY TO POLICE

PA242134 Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] The kidnapers holding 10 Niapsa employees hostage have surrendered to police authorities. According to the kidnapers, they belong to a new political-military group called the People's Military Organization, which was recently founded here in Nicaragua.

At about 0830 this morning the kidnapers were taken to police headquarters in a Managua police car. The hostages remained in the savings bank located next to Niapsa, where they made their depositions before the authorities.

The two kidnapers and attackers of Niapsa who belong to the People's Military Organization are Nubia del Carmen Baltodano Romero and William Sosa Moya. They will be defended by Dr Margaret Centeno, who will handle Nubia del Carmen Baltodano Romero's case, and by Dr Aquiles Centeno Perez, who will defend William Sosa Moya. They will be taken before Managua's third judge of the criminal district Monday morning to make their depositions.

The two youths, who are about 22 years old, had maintained the entire country in a state of suspense for the 76 hours that the kidnaping lasted. They had deceived everybody including newsmen and those standing outside the Niapsa building, by announcing first that they numbered eight and then four.

The hostages are currently resting in the offices of the Nicaraguan insurance company.

FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNS JOINT U.S.-ROK MANEUVERS

FL231107 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry has issued a note in connection with joint military exercises between the armies of South Korea and the United States. The note states that just when the Korean people were counting on the agreement reached between the DPRK and South Korea to resume the dialog on the country's reunification, South Korea, in common agreement with the United States, has accepted the holding of joint military exercises.

In the face of this new threat to peace on the Korean Peninsula and the rest of the Asian Continent, the Cuban Foreign Ministry condemns the joint military exercises and demands the immediate withdrawal of U.S. military forces. It also reaffirms its solidarity with the Korean people's struggle for the peaceful and independent reunification of their homeland.

ROA KOURI CALLS ON UN TO CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICA

FL241437 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Cuba asked the [UN] Security Council to condemn the South African racists for their continued aggressions against Angola and to apply the sanctions established in the UN Charter against the Pretoria regime. Cuban Permanent Representative to the United Nations Raul Roa Kouri pointed out to the Security Council that the racist attacks against the frontline states have recently increased. He stated that Ian Smith's Rhodesia and the Pretoria regime are clear instruments of imperialism, and that their actions are directed at safeguarding their niggardly [mezquino] interests in the region. Roa Kouri added that to achieve these imperialist objectives the racist regimes do not waver in carrying out military and other types of action against the neighboring sovereign states, and in this way threaten international peace and security.

He stressed that South Africa, which is the main bastion of the imperialist repressive system in Africa, subsists because certain Western powers guarantee it an uninterrupted flow of financial, technological and military resources. Roa Kouri said that the Security Council resolutions are seen as useless paper to some Western powers, which under the cover of alleged plans to sponsor a peaceful transition to independence and majority government in Zimbabwe and Namibia have sabotaged the achievement of the true popular objectives in the region.

He stated that the recent attacks on Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana are planned to prevent a true solution in Zimbabwe and Namibia, and then he explained that these are not as the racists argue, operations only directed against the combatants of the Patriotic Front and SWAPO. He stressed that this is an attempt to sow terror among the citizens of Zimbabwe and Namibia who have found refuge in the frontline countries, and to hit various centers and cities in those sovereign states.

He pointed out that it is evident that the present attacks against Angola and other neighboring states of Rhodesia and South Africa strangely coincide with the famous talks in New York which are attempting to achieve a peaceful solution to the Namibian situation. The imperialists and their allies are offering an alleged agreement carrot while they wave the bomb big-stick, massacring from their helicopters with napalm and machineguns that were made in the so-called Free World. He pointed out that this is the nauseating and intractible face of Fascism, and this lessens the boastful good intentions of the executioners of Rhodesia and South Africa.

Lastly, the Cuban permanent ambassador to the United Nations called on the member states to increase all forms of assistance to the Patriotic Front, SWAPO and the African National Congress to strengthen their just and legitimate struggle for liberty, independence and sovereignty.

POLISH PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

PA260345 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, today received at Havana international airport the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland, Piotr Jaroszewicz, who arrived on an official visit to Cuba. Jaroszewicz was, from 1944 to 1948, a member of the Polish United Workers Party. After political unification he remained active within the organization and became an alternate member of the party's Politburo in 1964 and a full member in 1970. He has also held the posts of mines minister and president of the Polish committee for scientific and technical cooperation abroad. The Polish leader's visit will further strengthen the traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation which exist between Cuba and Poland.

HUNGARY AGREES TO SUPPLY PARTS FOR GIRON BUS ASSEMBLY

FL241538 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Hungary and Cuba have signed an agreement in Budapest by which the (Icarus) plant will supply parts to assemble 400 Giron buses in our country between 1979 and 1980. The agreement provides the foundation for an expansion of cooperation in the next 5-year period and also covers technical assistance and cooperation and the training of Cuban personnel.

FIDEL CASTRO DEDICATES CIENFUEGOS HOSPITAL

Description of Event

FL232054 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Radio and Television Service in Spanish at 1931 GMT on 23 March begins live coverage of the dedication of a hospital in the city of Cienfuegos. An unidentified announcer describes the new hospital as the camera pans the building, grounds and persons assembled at an adjoining empty lot. At 1952 GMT the camera returns to the studio to present a documentary film on the hospital. Live coverage resumes at 2016 GMT. As the camera pans the presiding stand, a sign can be seen that reads: "Not only do the people have a right to medical services, but to the best medical services."

At 2034 GMT Fidel Castro is seen arriving at the presiding stand and, immediately afterward, the national anthem is played. Standing next to Fidel Castro are Ramiro Valdes and other party and government leaders. Staff announcer Manolo Ortega opens the ceremony by announcing the persons present on the presiding stand.

Ortega introduces one of the workers who participated in the construction of the hospital, and he begins speaking at 2038 GMT. In his speech the worker, Juan Pablo Blas Vazquez, explains that the entire province has contributed to the construction in one way or another. He reports the number of volunteer hours of work contributed by the workers. In closing, he pledges on behalf of all his comrades that they are ready to work wherever or in whatever Fidel Castro orders. The speaker then presents the key to the hospital to Fidel Castro, who in turn gives it to the hospital director.

Ortega introduces Fidel Castro, who begins speaking at 2047 GMT.

Fidel Castro Speech

FL232226 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 2047 GMT 23 Mar 79 FL

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at dedication of hospital in the city of Cienfuegos on 23 March 1979--live]

[Text] Distinguished guests and people of Cienfuegos, from what I see, every once in a while one has to come here to Cienfuegos. [laughter and cheers] There is always a new project, a new plant, a school, a stadium--and at least we have not had to come to all the projects which you have recently dedicated, because we did not come to the stadium [dedication], we did not come.... [laughter] But we did come to the teachers school [dedication] [cheers and applause]. And in addition to the projects, we have the honor to frequently accompany some illustrious visitors who want to visit Cienfuegos. [applause] And I warn you that soon we will have to make another visit here. [cheers and applause] One also has to tour Cienfuegos not only when the plants or hospitals are completed, but also when they are under construction, because it is a very important time. [applause] The construction is a very important time, and the dedication is a very emotional time.

We had already promised the construction workers and the doctors, especially the hospital director and Comrade Humberto [Miguel Fernandez, first secretary of the PCC in Cienfuegos Province] to participate in the dedication of this hospital. But actually we found this so very well done, so very well finished and so complete that we did not want to deny ourselves the privilege of participating along with you on this day...This memorable day. [applause]

But at the time of choosing the exact date, we kept in mind that a nonalined countries health experts meeting was being held in our country; and in deference to these delegates, these health experts of the nonalined movement, we had the dedication of the hospital coincide with their presence in our country. We have invited them to participate in this ceremony, and we express in the name of all our people, and especially in the name of the people of Cienfuegos, our most special and fraternal greetings. [applause] It seems worthwhile that on the occasion of a dedication of this type of institution to recall, although it be only briefly, the advances achieved by our country in the health field since the triumph of the revolution.

There are not many statistics on the years 1956, 1957 and 1958 because during that time there were no hospitals or information. What they did have was a lot of sick people without assistance, and many epidemics, and many deaths, and above all else many children who died before their first birthday. Over these years of the revolution, numerous diseases have been erradicated. The first one was poliomyelitis. Tuberculosis was virtually erradicated and totally controlled and many diseases have either been eliminated or reduced to a minimum. Those that still remain are being tenaciously combated, and the results are truly encouraging.

For example, a statistic: We figure that life expectancy for someone who was born before the revolution was some 50 years. Already in the first years of the revolution between 1960 and 1965, [life expectancy] increased to 63 years for men and 67 for women. [applause and laughter] As you can see it seems that the women, for some reason, [laughter and cheers] it seems that they take more care and are more disciplined in terms of health care. But among other things, because they are more needed, [cheers and applause] they live longer. [cheers and applause] Now, from 1975, in the 5-year period of 1975 to 1980, [life expectancy] has already increased to 70.2 years for men and 73.5 years for women. [cheers and applause] See how happy the young girls become, [laughter and cheers] expecting to at least live to 73.5 years of age.

We hope that it will increase, because it is improving year by year; because, that is to say, that even those who were born some 10 or 15 years ago, as the health system gets better there is greater hope for increased life expectancy. These statistics refer to those who have just been born. [laughter] But it is so...but of course it does affect the whole population. Because it is a statistic for the whole population. That is to say, what was someone's [life] expectancy who was born in 1950 or in 1955? The expectancy of someone who was born in 1955 notably improved after 1959. So many diseases were not eliminated in vain, and the medical services have improved extraordinarily; that is, everything that is done now and what is done in 10 years will benefit the whole population. But of course those who will benefit the most will be those who have just been born. No? [applause]

Already the institutional births in hospitals are at 98.2 percent, almost 100 percent of the babies are born in hospitals. Sometimes by chance and difficulties, some 14.5 do not have time to get to the hospital. [laughter]. Now, infant mortality has been reduced to 22.3 per 1,000 live births. Before the revolution we conservatively figure that it was around 66. This already places us at a very high level. For example, in life expectancy we are already just about at the level of Canada and the United States. Depite all of their wealth and their technological development our small country blockaded and all of this, we have already been able to establish a life expectancy similar to that of Canada and the United States. In infant mortality we are already very close to the levels of the most developed countries. Preschool mortality, between 1 and 4 years old, [is at] 1.1 per 1,000 inhabitants. School age mortality, between 5 and 14 years old, [is at] 0.4 per 1,000 inhabitants. Maternal mortality [is at] 4.5 per 10,000 live births. Another figure which shows that improvements have been made in other areas is the following.

In 1962, the mortality rate due to acute diarrhea was 57.3 per 100,000 inhabitants, and today it is 4.9 per 100,000 inhabitants. That is the 1978 rate as a result of the battle waged against those types of diseases. In 1959, the tuberculosis mortality rate was 16.6 per 100,000 inhabitants, and today it is 2.2 per 100,000 inhabitants. As you can see, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to die from those diseases and, consequently, life is being prolonged. If we continue on this path, perhaps some day we will live longer than Methuselah, the famous Methuselah. [laughter in the crowd]

For every child that is born, the mother is seen by the physician 10 times as an average. Some more, others a little less, but the average is 10 visits. As you can see, the children receive medical attention prior to birth. In 1978, there were 315,065 blood donations. When we began the drives for blood donations there were only a few thousand, not even 10,000. I can remember when we reached 100,000, and now we have surpassed 300,000 per year.

This is also a demonstration not only of the progress made in public health, but of humane solidarity, of the consciousness and fraternal spirit of our compatriots. They well know how much good, how much health and how many lives they have contributed to save with those donations, which today have reached 300,000 per year. With those donations, not only is blood contributed, but in many instances it is used to produce medication of great value to fight certain diseases.

In 1959 we had 6,000 physicians, almost all of them in Havana City. None of them were in the countryside, and about half of them were taken away from us. By 1978 we had 14,642 physicians. [applause] The large majority of those were educated in socialism and other concepts. We now have one physician for every 662 inhabitants. There are 3,314 dentists. We now have 26,796 nurses. [applause] The number of intermediate level technicians--nurses not included--is 22,564.

The number of students registered in the school of medicine for the 1978-1979 term is 11,039. Approximately 3,500 to 4,000 new students are registering every year, and that number will continue to grow. We will have a school of medicine in each province, in each of the 14 provinces. Some of them will have more than one, built next to hospitals such as this one. The day will come when we will graduate every year as many physicians as there were in the country when the revolution triumphed. [applause]

The day will come when we will have 5,000 to 6,000 physicians graduating every year. In the Public Health Ministry we have 255 hospitals, 129 dental clinics, 371 polyclinics, 57 rural hospitals, 53 homes for the aged, 131 rural medicine offices, 37 public health and epidemiology laboratories, 22 blood banks, which add up to 1,055 public health units throughout the country. We now have 7 schools of medicine, but we will have more than 20. Our physicians, nurses and technicians are working not only in Cuba but in some 20 other countries, countries of the so-called Third World in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. This year we will have 1,167 physicians and dentists working in the following countries: Angola, Algeria, Benin, Cape Verde, the Congo, Ethiopia, the POLISARIO Front, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, Iraq, Jamaica, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, South Yemen and Vietnam. [applause]

In addition to the physicians, we will have 635 nurses and 535 technicians working abroad, making a grand total of 2,337 health workers. This will surely increase in numbers, because relations develop and new political processes emerge. For example, we know that some of those countries are facing a very terrible situation. The case of Ethiopia is a very serious one. They had a total of 125 physicians for 35 million inhabitants. Compared to us, we have 14,000 physicians for nearly 10 million inhabitants--that is 120-times more physicians than they have, with one third of their population. But there are countries such as Kampuchea, were a horrible and monstrous policy of genocide was conducted which resulted in the death of millions of persons. That country, I believe, has only two physicians. It is a very difficult situation for many countries. Some countries have more economic resources than others.

Some have more economic resources. They pay for the medical cooperation. And when the countries do not have economic resources, we provide them with free medical assistance. [applause] For example, Ethiopia is one of these cases. This year we already have 139 doctors, 87 nurses and 84 technicians there for a total of 310 health workers. And this is cooperation which countries greatly appreciate. Our doctors are distinguished by their dedication to work and because they go to lend their services to faraway countries and in the far corners in those countries. In some cases, such as in Yemen, we help to set up the universities so that they can train their doctors.

In Ethiopia we are also going to cooperate with them in developing their medical faculty so that they can train their doctors. Of course it will take dozens and dozens of years. It could take 30, it could take 40 or it could take 50 [years] to reach the level of doctors per inhabitants which we have at the moment.

But our doctors also gain a lot. They gain in experience, they gain in prestige and they gain in human qualities. The doctor who goes and stays 1 year, 1.5 or 2 years learns about all those realities in the world, and he faces very serious problems. It is also without a doubt that he is a professional and a specialist who is later called to perform with greater efficiency, for the practice of internationalism does not only mean that others are helped but that by practicing internationalism we also help ourselves.

Now the concrete example of Cienfuegos. In 1959 there were--already in the first year of the revolution--92 doctors, and currently...[this says 272] but I believe there are more.

Oh, in the province. Cienfuegos already has...yes, 272 doctors; that is, approximately 1 doctor for every 1,250 inhabitants. They had 36 stomatologists in 1959 and now [they have] 82. There is no figure for medical technicians because there were none. [laughter] Now there are 470 medical technicians. There were three nurses; three had completed their degrees, correct? They gained their degrees through their practices. Now there are 385. There were no nurses aides; today we have 338 in Cienfuegos Province. We had two hospitals; now we have four. Counting this one. [asking someone on the dais] Counting this one. Four. But what hospitals. [laughter] We did not have a single stomatological clinic; now we have seven. We did not have a single polyclinic; we now have 2...[corrects himself] 12...12?...12. We got mixed up. We did not have a single rural hospital; now we have four. But in addition, because of communications, the roads into the Escambray [Mountains] and to all parts, it is now difficult to tell where one is going. Is one going to Cienfuegos, is one going to Manicaragua, or to some other place? Earlier rural hospitals had a much more important role in the first years because these communications did not exist. It was necessary to place them in very remote areas. We did not have a single rural dispensary; we now have nine. No nursing schools; now we have one and one...[speaks to someone in the dais] Yours is not completed yet? The new building. [someone answers him] Oh yes, of course, because we are no longer talking about nursing schools. Now we are not building nursing schools, we are now building health polytechnic institutes. But they have nursing schools in installations which are not new, while the polytechnic institutes are being built. But here in Cienfuegos, in precisely this school, they have trained the vast majority of the nursing personnel and technicians who will be working in this hospital. They have been trained here. [applause] While the hospital was being built, the hospital's workers were being trained. We did not have a single technical school; now we have one. No blood bank; we now have one. No dental prosthesis laboratory; now we have one. No provincial hygiene and epidemiology center; now we have one. And there was a medicinal mineral water spa, and today we have one. [laughter] It is the one at Ciego Montero. But there is something that was not there before. It is the bottling plant for Ciego Montero water. [laughter] There was no [bottling plant] and now we have one. [laughter and applause]

And now to see the situation in Cienfuegos in relation to the figures I gave earlier for the whole country. In infant mortality throughout the country I have already said that in 1978 it was 22.3, while Cienfuegos had 19.9 [applause] It is below the national figure. In school-age mortality, between 1 and 4 years; that is, pre-school age mortality, the national average is 1.9...[corrects himself] 1.1 per 1,000; in Cienfuegos it is 0.8. [applause] School-age mortality, between 5 and 14 years old, nationally is 0.4, while in Cienfuegos it is 0.4. This is the only figure that is the same as the national average, while the rest are lower. And now this hospital--can I say a little about this hospital? Not much, not all the information which I have brought with me, because I have information on everything--on the equipment, the laundry, the kitchen, everything. [laughter] Some essential things.

The total investment cost is 15.5 million pesos. The civil construction [cost] is 11.5 million [pesos]. Medical equipment and furniture is 4 million pesos. It has a total capacity of 616 beds and 24 wards. And in addition, it has a different concept. They are not those big wards. The wards are divided.

They have cubicles, some for 6 persons and others for 3 persons. Each 9-bed ward has a bathroom with two showers, two commodes, two washbowls. Each wing also has one dining area, pantry-dining area, with a capacity for 16 persons; one treatment room; one physician's office; one waiting area and the nursing station. Everything has been planned and built in the most practical, functional and humane manner.

For example, it has 10 operating rooms. It has 13 x-ray units, which includes portable and fixed units. It has 33 physician's, offices. This hospital has everything needed. Some 959 persons will work in it including physicians, technicians, administrative personnel, services personnel, workers and nurses. For example, it will have 249 nurses, and most of them are already working. It will have 369 technicians, 128 physicians. I cited the case of Ethiopia which for 35 million inhabitants had 125 physicians. Just this hospital by itself will have 128 physicians of all specialities, practically.

We can assert that at this time this hospital has the best material resources in all of Cuba. [someone in the crowd yells something to Castro] We will have him taken to the hospital immediately if he is ill. I hope it will not be necessary. Perhaps all he needs is a little fresh air. [camera focuses on a man being carried by two others] With a little fresh air that problem will be solved. Do you not think so, doctor? Everything is fine already. Is he feeling well already? Bring him over here and he can sit down. [applause] They are going to take him to the emergency room. They can take him through here. It is better this way. I am not a doctor. If you bring him to the hospital, everything will be solved rapidly.

I was saying that this hospital has the best facilities in the country at the present time, the most functional, the most practical, the most rational. It is the best equipped hospital in the country. Three more similar to this one will be completed this year. They will have the same capacity, the same facilities, perhaps the plans will be changed a little. The one in Tunas, the one in Manzanillo and the third in Guantanamo will be completed this year. Presently 18 hospitals are under construction throughout the country, as well as 23 polyclinics and dental clinics. There are a number of specialized brigades which are building these health centers.

All these programs are complemented with the construction of homes for the aged, handicapped institutions, improving our material resources in public health. If the gains we have made are big, doubtlessly in coming years--even though we have made a great advance--we will continue to make progress. We will have more physicians, physicians with greater experience, and that will improve year after year. Our medical personnel will improve its experience and training. Its effeciency. Once we have this material base completed, it will be possible to continue to improve, even though it might not be necessary to build more hospitals. How can we improve indefinitely? Limitlessly? In the quality of medical services.

We will have many physicians. I have told you that 3,500 to 4,000 students are registering every year in the school of medicine. Sometime in the future the registration will be increased to around 7,000 per year. Those physicians will be able to work here and in other countries. We will never have an excessive number of physicians. You do not have to worry about that. When we have more, then we will have a physician assigned to each secondary school, or each school, or each factory, or each merchant vessel. Even though we have many physicians, we do not yet have a physician assigned to each freighter. There are 30 or 40 men aboard them. They might have a health technician, but not all of them have a physician. The bigger ships, the large fishing vessels, should have them. Last but not least, we could have a physician in each block so that everyone will have one nearby. [applause] We will never have too many. We will have as many as needed by us and even by other countries in [the dimension of] quantity, and in quality we will have better and better physicians.

I repeat that next to each provincial hospital we will have a school of medicine with a capacity of 1,500 students. Right here, this hospital will not remain isolated. Next to it there will be the dental clinic and nearby the health polyclinic, over there, with a capacity for 800 students to train as technicians and nurses. The two things, and some male nurses also.

Men must be given an opportunity. The poor things--if they are going to live 2 or 3 years less, we will not discriminate against them. The polyclinic will be next to it. They are thinking of completing it this year. I have been told that they will complete the polyclinic this year. The polytechnical, I made a mistake, pardon me. [laughter] Where I said polyclinic, I meant polytechnical. [laughter] It is just that there are too many poly's. [laughter] Polytechnical, polyclinic. It is the polytechnical health center. It will be completed this year. This complex will include the home for the handicapped, the home for senior citizens and, finally, the school of medicine.

The importance of that school of medicine is not only based on the fact that it will produce doctors, and good doctors, who will acquire all the experience at this hospital center, but in the fact that the universities require very well-qualified personnel, professors of a high caliber. Consequently, having the university next to the hospital will greatly contribute to the doctors' improvement, stimulate study and contribute to the accumulation of eminent medical personalities at this school. Consequently, this will improve the quality of hospital services and result in an excellent health center for the area. We believe that the future will be magnificent.

We had to choose a name for the hospital. I believe we have chosen the best name. It is the name of a doctor who has passed away. He was distinguished in his speciality. But not only was he a man of great qualities and great revolutionary stature who was Mella's and Villena's comrade, and distinguished in the speciality of the struggle against tuberculosis, He was also a man of great intellectual prestige and great scientific, revolutionary and human qualities who died in recent years. He was able to see the victory of the revolution and the cause for which he had struggled for a long time. He is Gustavo Alderebia Lima. [long applause] Nothing is fairer than remembering him with this project, and nothing more honorable for the personnel who will work in this institution.

Now that we have this marvel, which will be put to use immediately, starting with outpatient consultation, it is up to the hospital leaders--the doctors, nurses, technicians and workers--to make the hospital a marvel concerning quality of services and hospital maintenance. [applause] We have news of the enthusiasm and interest of all those who have been assigned to this center. In addition to being a center of great importance because of the benefits and services it will provide to the people of Cienfuegos, this center is also an important work center for approximately 1,000 persons. It represents 1,000 new jobs for the Cienfuegos community. [applause]

You know how difficult it was to create a job before. This one center represents approximately 1,000 positions--an honorable and truly beautiful project. This hospital represents a lot of security for the people of Cienfuegos and families throughout the province--security and tranquillity because they know that any health problem they have will be treated in an optimum way at this center for the children, men, women, the young and the old. The doctors, nurses and technicians must be asked to treat each patient as if he were a son [applause], a brother, a husband or a parent. It is with this sentiment, and not only as parent, son, wife, brother but as a good parent, good son, good wife or husband and good son [as heard] [cheers, applause] [words indistinct] follows a son, good brother, good wife and good parent. [laughter] A health worker should work with that principle in mind, because it is not just any job. I believe that one must work with maximum responsibility in everything, as a teacher, [word indistinct] as an example, or as a worker in a factory or handling a piece of equipment or a machine. The maximum must be done. But there is nothing more sensitive than matters which concern health. An error in another field is an error, and it is regrettable, but errors in health care must always be avoided.

Those who come to this hospital for care need attention, trust, security, [word indistinct], solidarity and a fraternal spirit.

In all these instances, which are never forgotten, a person who is sick or needs hospital care or a person who needs it for his son, his parents or any close relative is most appreciative of the treatment given to that relative at the hospital. [applause] Human beings always remember and appreciate the attention received under those circumstances.

I must not forget a fact which demonstrates the enthusiasm of the people of Cienfuegos and the conscientious ability of these people in solving problems. The type of bed which this hospital has is new. Other hospitals do not have them. All beds are "fowler" beds and they all have...folder? That is correct, thank you. [apparently corrected by someone] [laughter] Folder, the doctor had already told me folder and I thought he was wrong and the one who was wrong was I. [laughter] Folder beds, I repeat, so I will not forget, and also hydraulic beds because they are raised, lowered and folded if you want to make your feet comfortable or raise your head, because one probably gets tired of lying down still and wants to do that, although one does not need to especially. They all have wheels--if X-rays have to be taken or anything else. The doctors felt that they were the best kind of beds, the optimum kind for the sick.

But they were coming from abroad, and we had the problem that we have these hospitals, plus the ones to be built. We wondered: Could we have these beds here? Would it be so difficult to build this hydraulic equipment here? Could it be so difficult?

It was then that Comrade Humberto, the comrades of the hospital said: No, we have a hydraulic equipment factory here, the Jose Gregorio Martinez factory [words indistinct] [applause]

They decided to try. This was only a few weeks ago. They decided to try. It was with great pleasure and satisfaction that today we were able to see samples of these beds manufactured in this factory. [applause]

These beds even have improvements. They have wooden parts, plywood and plastic. Now they tell me that it is plywood with formica--I was listening to keep myself from making another mistake. [laughter] Some beds are made with plastic, others with plywood of various colors. However, no one who goes [to the factory] can distinguish between an imported bed and a bed made by us; he cannot. These beds even have improvements, because the hydraulic equipment in the imported beds is sealed. If it breaks, then we have to take it out and ask for parts by means of telegrams, airplanes, ships or I do not know what, without knowing when it will arrive, and every year we have to spend our foreign exchange on this.

The mechanisms of the beds are also weak. Some are already broken. However, the mechanism in these beds has been built with stronger material. When one of the mechanisms failed, we found ourselves with a bed less, or with a bed that was not so efficient as it should be. Now we have the advantage that we have here a factory that can solve these problems speedily. And as I said, they do not have a sealed unit, but a chargeable unit that operates with nitrogen. Once the nitrogen is used, in our patent.... [thought left unfinished] because we may have to patent this so that they will not say that we have copied their bed. We have introduced technological advances, and maybe the Dutch who sold us the beds may say that we are disregarding their patent. But no, this is a Cienfuegos patent. There are nitrogen refills. This is with regard to hospital maintenance.

Ah! If we could do the same thing with everything! But we have to do it. That is our problem. We have to learn how to do things. We have to develop our mechanical industry. We have to learn how to build whatever equipment we need. I am not talking about a four-motor plane, because it takes a big country to do that. However, there are many other things. Look at this hydraulic equipment. Can you imagine a folder bed of our own? [laughter] What if we had to import the hydraulic equipment, to import everything? How much would it cost us?

We do not have the money for all that. What is the price of this type of imported bed? Approximately 450 pesos. We bought this one a little cheaper, but you know that prices go up. Sometimes we have to buy a number of these beds at about 450 pesos for each bed, but you know how much the material needed to make this type of bed costs? Forty-two pesos! One-tenth [of the price of the bed]. This means that if we learn how to build things here--even if we have to import the materials--things would cost us one-tenth of the price of the finished product. All we would have to do is do the work, and we do have good reserves in this regard. We could work an additional half-hour or hour. We could work 8 instead of 6 or 7 hours. You know that there are some people who do not work 8 hours. [laughter]

And many women and the young people studying in our polytechnical schools--not in our polyclinics, but our polytechnicals--and in our technical schools can join the work. Many schools can be built. Our educational level is already fantastic. Why can't we work with metals? What would keep us from learning how to operate lathes and machines? Things are done with lathes and machines.

The comrades of Cienfuegos deserve our congratulations, especially the workers of this factory [applause], the Jose Gregorio Martinez factory, to workers, technicians and leaders of the factory, since the group worked as innovators. You hear about innovators and you wonder: What do they do? Well, look, they do this type of thing: They solve problems. We have to keep on that path. We also have to congratulate Comrade Humberto and the comrades of this province for the speed with which they responded to these problems. [applause]

This will allow us, in a relatively economical way, to equip new hospitals, those under construction for which we have not bought beds. We have bought beds for some, but for others we have not. We should begin to think how to economically introduce this type of bed, which doctors feel is very adequate, in all our hospitals. If we were to use them in all our hospitals, how many would we need? Approximately 50,000. Therefore, we have the need for them, the market, the workers and the intelligence to solve this problem, which is no more than one example--one example. It is also nice to build sugarcane combines. They are not bad; they are good. We have only one factory of sugarcane combines. We are already making hundreds of parts for that factory. We will make a special effort this year. The parts for next year are already being made so that a machine will never stop because it lacks a part. We imported all these parts before, all of them.

Our mechanical industry is already producing. Many other fields are also doing so, but I gave this example of how problems can and must be solved. The day will come when we will be able to make much of this important medical and laboratory equipment. We will start by buying the parts and assembling them here, and then we will make them. It is a tragedy that it is very expensive equipment. It may cost tens of millions of dollars. If it lacks one part, the equipment is stuck, and we have to go get it very far away. In addition, the part may be delayed or maybe they cannot find it, and sometimes they change the design and no longer make the part. We must learn to solve all these problems.

We are under the impression that things are going well in Cienfuegos. The sugar harvest is going well. They are saving oil, a lot of oil, at the sugar mills. [applause] The economic significance of it is tremendous, considering what oil is worth and the price that it has. They are already giving us the watchword for next year: Not using fuel for the sugar harvest. This is what Cuba uses the least, a minimum. But how is it that there are those who go around with 1 and 1/2 gallon or even 2 and are proposing almost a half gallon for the next sugar harvest? It is a good thing we are near the hospital. [laughter] But you can already see a minimum figure here. The people are proposing the watchword to reduce consumption to zero during the next sugar harvest.

Cienfuegos has also introduced certain technological innovations in the sugar mills, such as the mill which increases the tank capacity and other innovations--some invented here, others gathered from world experience and applied here with very interesting results.

The cement factory is progressing rapidly. It will be the largest in Cuba. They will complete this year [words indistinct] and the third one next year. A tremendous factory! It will have a production capacity of twice as much cement as that produced in Cuba before the revolution--from 1.6 million to 1.8 million [tons]. Didn't you know that! Oh, that is because I can see your startled faces. I wonder: Could it be that the people of Cienfuegos do not know what they are doing here? You already have a good wheat mill. [applause] And next month, there will be no ceremony but we will have a visitor and we will have a quick tour [applause] to inaugurate the factory for the manufacture of irrigation pipes. [applause]

This means that the news from Cienfuegos is good news. I will not repeat what I have told you other times, my appreciation for the working spirit, enthusiasm and revolutionary awareness of the people of Cienfuegos. But you are going to create a problem for me. [applause] You will create a problem. People will say that I come to Cienfuegos a lot and do not go to other places. The other places are a little farther away. [laughter] Not every place is so close, because when we came to Cienfuegos from Havana....

For example, I am remembering a GRANMA newsman, an article he wrote about one time when I was a student and came through here--not came through, but was to come here to an event at the Cienfuegos institute. I told him that I was not even allowed to participate in the event because I was arrested immediately. [laughter] [words indistinct] Well, at the time you had to go around who knows where. I think you had to come. That was a long time ago, I would like to say.... [laughter] You had to come through the central narrow, small highway called the Central Highway and then go through Matanzas, Jovellanos, Colon to arrive at Esperanza. You had to get to Esperanza. Esperanza, no? Or La Esperanza? Is it La or Esperanza? How is it? [audience replies "La."]

Well, you had to get there and then take the other small road until you got here. How many hours was it? I think that time--and then no meeting or anything--after approximately 6 and 1/2 hours [word indistinct] [laughter] or more to get to Cienfuegos. How many hours does it take now? Two and 1/4 hours, and do not think I came by plane. Do not think I came by plane. You get to Cienfuegos from Havana almost faster by car than by plane, because you have to go to the airport. [laugher, applause] You leave directly and should make no turns on the road. If you come by plane, you have to to to the airport, take the plane, wait for the plane, wait for it to take off, arrive, land and then take another car or whatever at the airport [words indistinct] 2 and 1/4 hours from Havana. [words indistinct] along the road. It has six lanes. It has many lanes, and half of the road has been asphalted, up to Santa Clara and [word indistinct] but still, well you get to Cienfuegos faster than to Pinar del Rio on this road. You get to Santa Clara faster, but, for example, [place indistinct] is still far away. For this reason, there are many [word indistinct] in Cienfuegos. The visitors want to come to Cienfuegos. In fact, I hope the others do not get upset because of that. [applause]

I like to tour projects, the factories, and whenever I can, I take a little trip, not only to Cienfuegos, to other places, too. Unfortunately, you know how institutionalized it is, and we have many meetings and little time. But it is not that we have forgotten anybody.

I have nothing else to say, nothing more. [laughter] Something is mssing, you know! Nobody has said anything about the workers who built the hospital. Nobody has said anything.

We had almost forgotten them, despite the fact that they have built the best hospital project we have seen, exquisitely finished. They worked hard. In fact, it is the first hospital concluded out of allthat were started at the same time. [applause] They have done an excellent job, of great quality, and we are quite pleased that they will now proceed to build the stomatological clinic, the polytechnic of health. [laughter] The home of the handicapped.

But where is the maternity hospital? [laughter] They are telling me that they are going to install it at the present clinical hospital. They are really going to have a specialized hospital. It must be given a paint job, so that it will look pretty. Yes, it appears they are going to really fix up the hospital.

It is satisfying to know the projects that are to be made here, including the school. Yes, they are going to build a school, also, although their brigade is not for educational projects, but for hospital projects. Of course, they can lend a hand, too.

What changes have you made in the pediatric hospital? [laughter] Oh, you do not have a pediatric hospital? They tell me they are planning to build a module of 300 beds here for the pediatric hospital. [applause- They are planning it. It does not mean it is already a sure thing. It is merely their proposal. There may be a better one. However, we can see they are thinking about it. I hope you admit there has been some advance here. There may be a few things missing yet, but I think you have hopes, right? Then there should be no problem.

We want to express our recognition and gratitude to the workers who built this beautiful project, and we hope it will be a symbol, that this hospital will be a symbol of health, life, and the happiness of the citizens of Cienfuegos. Fatherland or death, we will win. [applause]

NONALINED HEALTH EXPERTS CONFERENCE ENDS IN HAVANA

FI231902 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 79 FL

[Text] After approving the final report and recommendations raised for the work agenda of the third meeting of ministers, the conference of health experts of the nonalined countries movement and other developing countries, which met on 21 and 22 March in the Camilo Cienfuegos Hall of the Public Health Ministry in Havana City, has concluded. This experts meeting studied priorities for facilitating the implementation of action program proposals and various ways and means of cooperation, among the developing countries themselves and with international organizations dealing with health.

Among the recommendations raised, it was pointed out that the first one to be adopted should be a guiding criterion in establishing priorities to assure primary health care to the peoples of our countries. Other points in the document listing the recommendations from this meeting include: Promoting execution of programs at the regional, interregional and worldwide level using the international agencies of the United Nations; promoting the training of qualified professionals, technicians and workers in the health field; and promoting the exchange of experiences of intergovernmental programs in the health field.

On a proposal from the Iraqi and Libyan delegations, the experts meeting approved a recommendation to the third ministers meeting agenda calling for a study of the necessary steps to take to apply Article Seven of the World Health Organization [WHO] constitution and suspend the Zionist occupation forces from the WHO.

In his closing remarks, Dr Jorge Aldereguia, who presided over this experts meeting, expressed his thanks to the delegates for the work done to benefit the health of their respective peoples, and the cooperation provided to achieve a successful meeting. Lastly, Dr Aldereguia transmitted the decision of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, to inaugurate a modern hospital in Cienfuegos to salute this nonalined movement health experts meeting.

MACHADO VENTURA TOURS ISLE OF YOUTH

FL222112 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2002 GMT 22 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the PCC Politburo, has toured livestock, citrus and student centers in the Isle of Youth accompanied by Felix Mojena, second secretary of the party in the [Isle of Youth] Special Municipality. At every center Machado Ventura met with the political and administrative directorates to review fulfillment of the [production] pledges made at the First PCC Congress in Havana, and he explained some points so that they will arrive at the second congress with all of their pledges accomplished.

Among the centers visited are the citrus districts of Patria, Enlace and Libertad, and the rural schools (Masetti) and Saydi Vieira Dais. At the end of his tour, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura met with members of the party muncipal bureau in the Isle of Youth, at which he expressed his satisfaction with the work done by the centers of the political organizations visited.

IRAQI PEOPLE'S ARMY DELEGATION TOURS CIENFUEGOS

FL221959 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1817 GMT 22 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The delegation of Iraq's People's Army which is visiting our country at the invitation of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] has been touring Cienfuegos Province since last Tuesday. The visitors, (Abd Abdallah al-Hamdani) and Lt Col (Abd ar-Razaki al-Ibar), toured the industrial area of Cienfuegos and held talks with the CDR Provincial Executive Secretariat. The Iraqi delegation visited the Pepito Tey sugar mill of Cienfuegos, where they learned about its members' actions against the enemies of the revolution.

MOZAMBICAN STUDENTS ARRIVE ON ISLE OF YOUTH

FL241917 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The first 370 Mozambican young people from a more than 1,000-member contingent which will be studying on the Isle of Youth has arrived on the island. Arriving along with the future students was a group of Mozambican teachers, who will be cooperating with the Cubans in teaching, and Mozambican newsmen, who will be reporting on the activities of the young people from that African nation on the island.

BAHAMAS

ACP-EEC CONFERENCE ENDS WITHOUT RESOLVING ISSUES

ACP, EEC Demands

PA231204 Paris AFP in English 0430 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[By Anne Wahl]

[Text] Freeport, Bahamas, March 22 (AFP)--Fifty-seven African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations today demanded revision of the 1975 Lome Convention to allow freer movement of their exports into the European Economic Community (EEC).

ACP group Chairman Michel Anchouey of Gabon told the opening session of a three-day meeting of ACP and EEC foreign ministers that the insufficiencies of the convention, due to expire next year, had become more and more apparent, particularly in regard to EEC tariff barriers and industrial cooperation. "You seem to give us total freedom (to export to the EEC)," he told the EEC ministers, "but we have the impression that you take back with one hand what you give with the other."

The ACP nations--among the poorest in the world--want free access to the Common Market for all their products. At present, five per cent of their total exports, mostly meat from Botswana and Malawi and tomatoes from Senegal, are subject to tariffs.

They are also seeking an extension of the export income stablilization system (STABEX) set up by the EEC to assure the ACP countries stable revenues for their farm and iron ore exports. The ACP want STABEX to cover other agricultural produce and minerals besides the 10 to which it now applies.

West Germany favours an extension of STABEX to copper alone while the European Commission is advocating a different aid system for other minerals.

Mr Achouey later told a news conference that the ACP group would not be taking a stand on another issue which has split the EEC--the duration of the new convention.

Britain wants it limited to no more than five years while the European Commission would like it to be around 10 years.

Observers here said that a far more controversial issue in the present negotiations would be the EEC's demand that the new convention contain a clause calling for the observance of human rights in the signatory nations. Many of the ACP nations are opposed to such a clause, but French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncent, current chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers, said the EEC attached great importance to human rights.

ACP officials here said the developing nations would also be seeking the creation of a new special fund covering industrial cooperation, different from the existing Europe Development Fund through which the EEC channels aid for development projects.

In turn, European foreign ministers are hoping to finalize the new ACP-EEC convention before the next session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Manila in May.

Unresolved Issues

PA251215 Paris AFP in English 0417 GMT 25 Mar 79 PA

[By Anne Wahl]

[Text] Freeport, Bahamas, March 24 (AFP)--Three days of talks on renewing the 1975 Lome Convention linking 57 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations with the European Economic Community (EEC) ended here today without resolving key issues like a human rights clause and the volume of EEC development aid.

French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet, chairman of the EEC group, told a news conference that the issues would be left to the final round of negotiations in Brussels on May 24-25.

The Lome Convention expires next year and the EEC, against the opposition of the ACP, has been seeking inclusion of a clause in the new accord linking economic aid with human rights in the countries concerned.

Gabon Finance [as received] Minister Michel Anchouey, chairman of the ACP group, said the talks here had made little progress on the volume of aid to the 57 nations, which include some of the poorest in the world.

He said the ACP had asked the EEC, when deciding the leval of aid, to take into account the monetary erosion caused by inflation.

Mr Anchouey also deplored the fact that little progress had been made on industrial cooperation and the ACP demand for free access to the EEC for the remaining half per cent of its exports, mostly agricultural products, which are still subject to tariffs.

He also regretted that the EEC had not favoured the creation of a separate fund covering the development of industrial cooperation, different from the existing European Development Fund. He said the EEC preferred to improve present financial instruments such as the European Investment Bank.

Mr Francois-Poncet, however, said progress had been made on a number of issues and on identifying problems still to be settled. He singled out progress on extension of the Export Income Stabilization System (STABEX), which ensures the ACP of stable revenues for their farm and iron ore exports.

The present system covers 10 products in all, and the French foreign minister said the EEC had undertaken to propose to the ACP a parallel system for other minerals.

Mr Francois-Poncet said the two sides had also reached agreement on creating a technical centre for agricultural development which would give the ACP better access to research and innovations in this area.

Both ministers said another question being left to the Brussels meeting was that of the duration of the new accord. The EEC is split on the issue, with Britain wanting it limited to no more than five years while the European Commission is in favour of a longer period.

Mr Anchouey said the ACP felt the duration of the accord should depend on its content.

GRENADA

TRINIDAD PAPER SAYS 10 CUBANS INVOLVED IN COUP

PA231444 Paris AFP in English 1417 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Mar 23 (AFP)--The mass-circulation weekly newspaper the BOMB carries a front-page story this morning saying that a group of ten Cubans landed in Grenada and helped former opposition leader Maurice Bishop to pull off a successful coup in the island on the morning of March 12th.

The article is written by the paper's staff writer Ian Gooding who was in Grenada following the coup last week.

It says on the morning of the pre-dawn coup, ten Cuban guerrilla fighters landed by boat at an isolated beach in the island and linked up with twenty teenaged school boys who formed the assault group.

The article says the Cubans were heavily armed.

It says they helped to burn the army barracks and capture the only radio station in the island for the revolutionary forces before flying out the same morning. In the coup which was excuted with split-second precision, only three casualties were reported--a Grenadian army officer, a policeman and a schoolboy.

Shortly after the coup, Bishop denied he had assistance from the Cuban Government.

Gooding's article calls this the first big lie of his revolutionary regime.

Meanwhile Mr Bishop today made a general call for arms to be handed in to the revolutionary forces and said on radio that he intends to offer a period of amnesty.

Among the documents said to be found at the home of the deposed prime minister is a list released here yesterday, carrying the names of thirty persons described as enemies of Sir Eric Gairy.

At the top of the list is a hand-written inscription, may God help me, Eric Matthew Gairy, to overcome these enemies.

Heading the list is one of Sir Eric's closest lieutenants and former leader of the Senate, Derek Knight, who escaped from Grenada after the coup.

The list was discovered in a room at the Mount Royal residence of the former prime minister, which also contained black robes, crucifixes, books on witchcraft as well as a sceptre and a crown.